We claim:

1. A dental implant for use in replacing a missing tooth in a patient's jaw bone comprising,

an implant body adapted to be at least partially recessed into a portion of said patient's jaw bone, said implant body extending longitudinally along an axis from a distalmost apex to a proximal end portion,

a coloured coronal band portion provided about a peripheral surface of said implant body adjacent said proximal end portion, said coloured portion having a colour which is complementary to a natural gum tissue colour of said patient, so as not to significantly discolour the gum tissue if seem therethrough,

a bone engaging surface provided about at least a portion of said peripheral surface of said implant body, and being spaced from said coloured band portion towards said apex said bone engaging surface selected to promote bone tissue ingrowth or attachment thereto and extending longitudinally along said periphery of said implant body to a proximal edge spaced towards said proximal end portion, wherein at least a portion of said proximal edge having a contour selected to generally follow a crestal surface contour of preselected bone tissues.

2. An implant as claimed in claim 1 wherein said coloured band portion extends from said proximal end portion towards said apex a distance selected at between about 0.5 and 2.5 mm.

3. An implant as claimed in claim 2 wherein said bone engaging surface is selected from the group consisting of a porous coated surface, a textured surface, an externally threaded surface and a biochemically coated surface.

4. An implant as claimed in claim 3 wherein said proximal end portion is contoured so as to generally follow said crestal surface contour, and said implant body is sized for insertion in an anterior region of said patient's mouth.

5. An implant as claimed in claim 1 wherein said implant body includes a generally cylindrical portion, said bone engaging surface extending about a periphery of at least part of said cylindrical portion.

6. An implant as claimed in claim 5 wherein said implant body is generally frustoconical in shape, said body tapering from said proximal end portion towards said apex at an angle of between 1 and 20 degrees.

7. An implant as claimed in claim 6 wherein said implant body tapers at an angle of about 5 degrees.

8. An implant as claimed in claim 1 wherein said implant body includes a tapered portion, said tapered portion narrowing in diameter towards said apex at an angle of between about 1 and 20 degrees, and said coloured band portion comprises a coating selected from the group consisting of a gold coloured titanium nitride coating, a yellow gold or gold alloy coating and a pink gold or gold alloy coating.

9. An implant as claimed in claim 8 wherein said implant body further comprises orienting means to assist in orienting said implant body with the contour of the proximal edge substantially aligned with the contour of the crestal surface of said patient's jaw bone, said orienting means selected

from the group consisting of visual indicia, grooves, stamped markings, and guide members.

10. A dental implant as claimed in claim 2 wherein said implant body includes a textured peripheral portion intermediate said bone engaging surface and said coloured band portion, said textured peripheral portion selected from a laser abraded surface, an acid etched surface and a mechanically abraded or roughened surface.

11. A dental implant for use in replacing a missing tooth in a patient's jaw bone comprising,

an implant body portion adapted to be recessed into a portion of said patient's jaw bone, said implant body extending longitudinally along an axis from a distalmost apex to a proximal end portion,

a coloured coronal band portion provided about said implant body portion immediately adjacent said proximal end portion, said coloured band portion comprising a gold coloured plating or coating and extending axially between 0.5 to 2.5 mm along said implant body.

a bone engaging surface spaced distally from said coloured band coating towards said apex and providing a peripheral surface of said implant body, said bone engaging surface selected to promote bone tissue ingrowth or attachment thereto and extending longitudinally along said periphery of said implant body to a proximal edge spaced towards said proximal end portion, wherein the proximal edge of the bone engaging surface has a contour selected to generally follow a crestal surface contour of a pre-selected jaw bone adjacent said missing tooth.

12. An implant as claimed in claim 11 further comprising a textured implant surface extending about a periphery of said implant body intermediate said bone engaging surface and said coloured band surface, said bone engaging surface comprising a porous surface, said textured surface being selected from a chemically etched, a laser abraded and mechanically abraded surface and wherein said coloured band portion is selected from a titanium nitride coated portion and a gold or gold alloy coated portion.

13. An implant as claimed in claim 11 wherein said porous surface has a porosity selected at between about 20 and 800 microns.

14. The implant as claimed in claim 12 wherein the proximal end portion is contoured to generally follow said crestal surface contour, and

said coloured band portion extends distally from said proximal end portion to a lower band edge, said lower band edge.

15. The implant of claim 14 wherein said lower band edge generally follows the contour of the proximal edge of the bone engaging surface, and

said textured surface extends in the axial direction a distance of between about 0.5 and 2.5 mm.

16. An implant as claimed in claim 11 wherein said bone engaging surface comprises an externally threaded surface.

17. An implant as claimed in claim 11 wherein said bone engaging surface comprises a biochemically coated surface, selected from a hydroxyapatite coating and a calcium hydroxyapatite coating.

18. An implant as claimed in claim 11 wherein said coloured band portion comprises a generally smooth portion.

19. An implant as claimed in claim 18 wherein said bone engaging surface is selected from the group consisting of a porous surface, a textured surface, a threaded surface and a biochemically coated surface.

20. An implant as claimed in claim 11 wherein said pre-selected jaw bone comprises the jaw bone of a healthy human.

21. An implant as claimed in claim 11 wherein said pre-selected jaw bone comprises the jaw bone of said patient.

22. A dental implant for use in replacing a natural tooth in a patient's jaw bone comprising,

an implant body extending longitudinally along an axis from a lowermost apex to an upper end portion and including,

an uppermost coloured coronal band surface adjacent to said upper end portion and providing a first peripheral surface portion of said implant body, said coloured band portion comprising a substantially smooth portion having applied thereto a coating selected from a group consisting of a gold-coloured titanium nitride coating, a yellow gold coating, a yellow gold alloy coating, a pink gold coating, and a pink gold alloy coating,

a bone engaging surface providing a second peripheral surface portion of said implant body adapted to be recessed into said patient's jaw bone, said bone engaging surface selected to promote bone tissue ingrowth or attachment thereto and extending longitudinally along

said periphery of said implant body substantially from said apex to an upper edge spaced towards said upper end portion, wherein the upper edge of the bone engaging surface has a contour selected to generally follow a crestal surface contour of healthy bone tissues at a site of implant placement, and

a textured peripheral portion intermediate said bone engaging surface and said coloured band portion, the textured peripheral portion selected from a laser abraded portion, an acid etched portion, and mechanically abraded portion, and

an abutment for supporting a prosthesis thereon.

23. The implant as claimed in claim 22 wherein said implant body is generally frustoconical in shape tapering inwardly towards said apex at an angle of between about 2 and 10 degrees, and said bone engaging surface comprises a porous coated surface .